THE

Wonderful Works of

GOD.

Shewing the Difference betweeo the Old Christmas and the New. Which appears by the holy *Thorn* that grows in *Glastonbury* Field in *Somersetshire*; which upon the 5th of *January* last, 1753, being old *Christmas Day*, was in the full Bloom, and there was a great many Gentlemen and Ladies from all Parts of *England* to see that beautiful *Thorn* where *Joseph* of *Arimathea* pitched his Staff, within two Miles of *Glastonbury*, to the great surprize of the Spectators, to see it bud, blossom, and fade, at the Hour of twelve, on Old Christmas Day, where a Sermon was preached at the same time, by one Mr. *Smith*.

Price One Penny.

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BUT what is now remarkable of the White Thorne, *otherwiſe called the* Holy Thorne, *which to this Day is noted thro gh all Enrope, for its budding on Chriſtmas Day in the Morning, bloſſoming at Noon, and fading at Night, the reaſon is,* — *It was the Staff of* Joſeph of Arimathea, *which he uſed in traveling, and fixed it in the Eatth in the Place where the white Thorn now grows, it grew to what it is now; and tho' the Time of Popery in this Kingdom is now aboliſhed, yet do thouſands of People of different Opinions, go once a Year to ſee it, it being a moſt miraculous Curioſity, and brings many People from beyond Sea to ſee it, at its uſual Time of budding, it being a Wonder ſupernatural, as being a matter contrary to the Courſe of Nature, and may make us cry out with the Pſalmiſt,* O Lord, how wonderful are thy Way!

This moſt holy Diſciple, Joſeph of Arimathea, *was appointed and ordained by the Twelve to go and preach the Goſpel in* England; *and according to his Miſſion given him, he took ſhipping at* Joppa, *a ſea-port Town in* Judea, *and ſailing in many dangerous Storms through the* Mediterranean, *and other Seas, till at length he landed in* Burrow-bay *in* Somerſetſhire, *and then went eleven miles Eaſtward, that Day, which was to* Glaſtonbury, *where fixing his Pilgrim's Staff in the Ground, it was no ſooner ſet in the Earth, but like* Aaron's *Rod, (which bloſſomed Flowers) when ther was a Conteſt between him and other learned Jews for the Prieſthood, it was preſently turned into a bloſſoming Thorn, which ſuperſtntly*

natural Miracle made the numerous Spectators, who came to see this Stranger, to be very attentive to hear his preaching the Gospel, which was concerning Christ crucified for the Redemption of Maastind.

At Glastonbury *in* Somersetshire, *he arriv'd about three Years after the Death of our blessed Redeemer, being then th, 44th Year of his Age, doing wonderful Miracles, brought to the Conversion of Christ above* 1000 *Souls. He baptized at the City of* Wells, *four Miles from* Glastonbury, *above* 5000 *Persons in one Day: He piously persuaded them not to hazard the Salvation of their Souls, in the Worshiping the* Sun, Moon, *and* Strs. *Thus* Joseph of Arimathea, *by his godly Life and good Behaziour obtained the good Will of one* Ethelbertus, *a King, then reigning in the West of* England; *he converted many of his Nobles to the Christian Faith, & founded that famous Abby at* Glastonbury, *which, is said to be the first Christian Church.*

In the ancient Town of Glanstonbury, Joseph of Arimathea *continued till the Day of his Death, which was* 42 *Years, so that he was* 86 *when he died: So venerable was his Person, that six Kings of those Parts honoured his Corps by carrying it on their royal Shoulders to his Grave, made in the Chancel of* Glastonbury Abby, *and had a stately Tomb erected over him, with the following Inscription, viz.*

Here

Here lies the Body
Of that moſt holy Diſciple,
Recorded in Scripture by the Name of
JOSEPH of ARIMATHEA.
Who was noted by the four
EVANGELISTS,
Matthew, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John*.
For his generous Action of begging the Body of our bleſſed Saviour, when crucified to redeem loſt Man from Deſtruction, and burying it in a Tomb of his own making.
He died Anno Dom. xlv. *Ætat.* 86.

Alſo, in Veneration for *Joſeph of Arimathea*, a great Lady living at *Glaſtonbury*, a little after the Death of this holy Man, obtain'd of her Husband ſo much Paſture Ground, in a Common adjoining to the Town, for the Good and Benefit of the Inhabitants, as ſhe was able in a whole Day to go about bare-footed.

On the 5th Day of *January* laſt 1753, being Old Chriſtmas Day, the afore-mentioned Thorn was ſeen to bud, bloſſom, and fade, in the Preſence of great numbers of Spectators; who by that were well aſſured the Old Chriſtmas Day was right, (not the other) according to the new *Stile*; and at the ſame Time they heard a Sermon preached on that Occaſion, by Mr. *Smith*.

On

On the Holy Thorn.

GREAT *Joſeph* to our Iſland came,
And piouſly liv'd in the ſame.
Three Pagan Kings converted he,
By preaching Chriſt moſt faithfully.
Lo, Faith and Charity was here,
And to this Day ſome Marks appear;
Which now, alas! we only ſhow,
But moſt lament that do it know,
He there ſet up and laid him ſtill,
But ſoon God's Wonders there were ſhown,
For Life and Death were quickly known.
A famous Tree ſprung from the Staff,
Though modern Fools are apt to laugh,
Yet at Chriſt's Birth were Bloſſoms fair,
Which to this Day remaineth there.

On FAITH.

O Faith, how Wonderful's thy Charms,
Which Heathen Pride and Force disarms,
That with our bleſſed Lord's Complaint,
Made both a Convert and a Saint.
'Midſt Jewiſh Rage and Rabbies Scorn,
The Juſt admire the more Forlorne.
Thus *Joſeph* for Chriſt leaves his Home,
And gives his Maſter his own Tomb.
'Tis heaard to ſay with what grim Forms,
Of Death at Land and Sea in Storms,
He met with Force where e'er he came,
And did immortalize his Name.
Such Honour unto *England* given,
From hence to breath his Soul in Heaven.
But ſo it in this Land did ſhine,
As Jeſus did in Paleſtine.

Some

Some holy Directions to die well.

MY Brethren what doth the Lord require of you, but to do Juſtice, to love Mercy, and walk humbly with God, and to break off with your Sins, and to take no more Pleaſure or Delight in them, but hate and abhor them for the future, and utterly caſt them behind your Backs, and to preſs forward to the Mark of the Prize of the high Calling in Chriſt Jeſus our Lord: For the Time is haſtening and coming on, wherein it ſhall be ſaid, *He that is unjuſt let him be unjuſt ſtill, he that is ffilthy let him be filthy ſtill, and he that is righteous let him be righteous ſtill.* The infinite, holy, and heart-ſearching God, watcheth, ſeeth, and taketh a ſtrict Acount of all our Actions, and they will find you out, and if not truly repented of and pardoned, they will lie down with you in the Grave, and follow you in another World, and meet you at God's dreadful Pit, and be open to the View of the whole World. Sin is a bad Bed-fellow, and a woeſe Grave-fellow.

FINIS.

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